

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 100833Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0269
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JA, CH
SUBJECT: PFT: TOKYO ATMOSPHERICS

1. TOKYO PRESS REPORTS "RAPID PROGRESS" IN SONODA-HUANG
HUA TALKS OF AUGUST 9. MOST STORIES SUGGEST THAT ANTI-
HEGEMONY PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED, WITH SONODA AND HUANG
HAVING AGREED THAT TREATY'S EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON JAPANESE
AND CHINESE RENUNCIATION OF HEGEMONIC AMBITIONS RATHER THAN
ON QUESTION OF THIRD-COUNTRY ACTIVITY. PRESS NOTES THAT
THIS WOULD REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE CHINESE COMPROMISE (WHICH
INDEED IT WOULD). SONODA IS REPORTED TO HAVE SUGGESTED, AS
PART OF HIS ARGUMENTATION CONCERNING HEGEMONY, THAT
CHINESE AS WELL AS SOVIET INFLUENCE WAS SOURCE OF CONCERN,
PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. (HUANG WAS SAID TO HAVE
NOTED IN REPLY THAT SOUTHEAST ASIANS ALSO HARBORED SOME
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ANXIETY OVER JAPAN'S FUTURE ROLE.)

2. YOMIURI SHIMBUN, CLAIMING TO HAVE "GIST" OF AUGUST 10
EXCHANGES, REPORTED THAT SONODA TOLD HUANG HE HAD DISCERNED
FAVORABLE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PFT DURING HIS MAY VISIT TO
WASHINGTON. SONODA WAS SAID TO HAVE REMARKED THAT U.S.
"EXPECTED AND WELCOMED" CONCLUSION OF TREATY.

3. CANCELLATION OF FURTHER SONODA-HUANG MEETINGS, AND SESSION WITH TENG SET FOR EVENING AUGUST 10 IS TAKEN TO MEAN HARD BARGAINING IS OVER AND RESULTS NEED ONLY BE CONFIRMED IN CONVERSATION WITH TENG. PRESS PREDICTS SIGNATURE OF TREATY ON SATURDAY, SINCE IT WOULD TAKE UNTIL THEN TO COMPLETE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. SKIPPING STILL FURTHER AHEAD, PRESS EXPECTS SONODA TO INVITE TENG TO VISIT TOKYO IN CONNECTION WITH EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION.

4. ON HOME FRONT, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA HAS SOUGHT TO INSTILL NOTE OF CAUTION. HE HAS ADMITTED THAT TALKS WERE PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD, BUT REFUSED TO CONFIRM THAT "CLIMATIC STAGE" HAD BEEN REACHED AND DECLINED TO PREDICT WHEN SIGNATURE MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

5. IN OTHER TREATY-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS:

-- LDP PRIME MINISTERIAL ASPIRANT YASUHIRO NAKASONE HAS REINFORCED HIS IMAGE AS MOST PROMINENT SKEPTIC OF PFT WITH STATEMENT CALLING AGAIN FOR RESOLUTION OF SENKAKUS ISSUE AS PART OF ANY TREATY: "IT IS TRICKERY AND PHONY FRIENDSHIP WHEN PENDING ISSUES...ARE NOT TOUCHED UPON."

-- SPECULATION IS BEGINNING TO MOUNT CONCERNING POSSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET RESPONSES TO CONCLUSION OF TREATY. SOVIET STATEMENTS WARNING OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES HAVE RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE, AND SHARP EYE IS MAINTAINED FOR ANY SIGNS OF SOVIET RETALIATORY ACTION. DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR JAPANESE FISHERY NEGOTIATORS LAST WEEK WAS ATTRIBUTED BY PRESS (ALTHOUGH NOT BY GAIMUSHO) TO SOVIET PIQUE. PRESS TODAY REPORTS SOVIET REFUSAL TO ALLOW JAPANESE TO VISIT GRAVES OF RELATIVES IN NORTHERN TERRITORIES. NONETHELESS, POPULAR CONSENSUS (PROBABLY SHARED BY GOVERNMENT) IS THAT SOVIET REACTION WILL BE LIMITED.

-- WHILE DEGREE OF GENUINE PUBLIC INTEREST IS DEBATABLE, TREATY TALKS ARE SUBJECT OF UNUSUALLY INTENSE MEDIA ATTENTION, EVEN FOR THIS MEDIA-SATURATED SOCIETY. REPORTS OF PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS, OFTEN IN EXCRUCIATING DETAIL, ARE PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS. (POP MUSIC STATIONS HAVE HAD PERIODIC NEWS BULLETINS DESCRIBING STATE OF PLAY WITH RESPECT TO DEFINITION OF HEGEMONY AND WORDING OF THIRD-COUNTRY CLAUSE.)

-- POLICE ARE OUT IN FORCE AROUND GAIMUSHO AND BOTH SOVIET

AND CHINESE EMBASSIES, PREPARED TO DISCOURAGE MALCONTENTS
FROM WHATEVER QUARTER. (FOCUS OF ATTENTION AUGUST 9 WAS
USSR EMBASSY, FOR REASONS UNRELATED TO PFT: RIGHTISTS
MOUNTED ANNUAL PROTEST TO COMMEMORATE AUGUST 1945 SOVIET
DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST JAPAN.) MANSFIELD

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